

A 25X1C

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Conscription and Demobilization by Age Group in the Soviet Army

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### Demobilization of Soviet Army Troops After World War II.

1. The total mobilization of 22 June 1941 included the 1905 through 1921 classes. The supplementary mobilization of 1 October 1941 affected the 1893 through 1904 classes of Category II and provided for the early induction of the 1922 and 1923 classes. Some members of the 1888 through 1892 classes of Category III, which had been inducted during and after July 1943, were discharged from the field forces prior to the end of the war. Additional inductions prior to May 1945 affected the young classes up to 1927 and from 10 to 20 percent of the 1928 class. Hence, it appears that the 1893 class was the oldest, and the 1927 class the youngest, which were in active service at the end of the war except for the small percentage of the 1928 class.
2. The demobilization of troops from 1945 to 1948 was effected in six phases and is tabulated as follows:

| Phase, Date of Announcement   | Number of Classes to be Discharged under the Demobilization Plan | Classes Discharged (based on analysis of available information) | Time of Discharge under the Demobilization Plan |
|---|--|---|---|
| First Phase<br>23 June 1945<br>(Europe)<br>7 September 1945<br>(Far East) | 13   | 1893 to 1905  | Second half of 1945                             |

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List cont'd  
Second Phase

|                   |   |              |                    |
|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------------|
| 25 September 1945 | 10  | 1906 to 1915 | By the end of 1945 |
|                   | plus students, teachers, those wounded three times, and pre-1938 inductees of other classes |              |                    |

Third Phase

|               |   |              |                       |
|---------------|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| 20 March 1946 | 6 | 1916 to 1921 | May to September 1946 |
|---------------|---|--------------|-----------------------|

Fourth Phase

|                 |   |      |                               |
|-----------------|---|------|-------------------------------|
| 23 October 1946 | 1 | 1922 | November 1946 to January 1947 |
|-----------------|---|------|-------------------------------|

Fifth Phase

|                 |   |               |                    |
|-----------------|---|---------------|--------------------|
| 4 February 1947 | 2 | 1923 and 1924 | March to June 1947 |
|-----------------|---|---------------|--------------------|

Sixth Phase

|               |  |   |  |
|---------------|--|---|--|
| 16 March 1948 | "Completion of the demobilization of older classes, with the Armed Forces to consist primarily of the 1926 and 1927 classes" | First small contingents of the 1925 class | Allegedly by the end of March 1948, but actually staggered until June 1950 |
|---------------|--|---|--|

3. The last demobilization phase was officially announced in May 1948, by which date EM and NCOs, except reenlistees, of all classes older than, and including, the 1924 class had actually been discharged. However, the discharge of the 1925 class which, according to the Sixth Demobilization Decree, was to be completed by 31 March 1948, did not take place. The soldiers of this class, especially those on occupation duty, were retained in service, in some cases until June 1950. The following paragraph is an analysis to determine the actual time of discharge of those personnel of the 1925 through 1927 classes who served during the war.

Discharge of War Veterans Upon Completion of the Official Demobilization.

4. 1925 Class. The evaluation of 14 Soviet documents, mostly army letters, resulted in the following picture regarding the discharge of the 1925 class inducted during and after January 1943: EM in the U.S.S.R. were discharged during the period from February 1948 to the fall of 1949; EM on occupation duty during the period from October 1949 to June 1950; and NCOs, excluding reenlistees, during the period from the fall of 1949 to the fall of 1950.
- 1926 Class. Nine Soviet original documents evaluated with regard to the discharge of the 1926 class, inducted during and after July 1943, indicated that EM in the U.S.S.R. were discharged during the period from the fall of 1949 to March 1950; EM on occupation duty during the period from March to October 1950; and NCOs from September 1950 to February 1951.
- 1927 Class. The evaluation of 8 Soviet documents as to the discharge of the 1927 class, inducted during and after April 1944, disclosed that EM in the U.S.S.R. were discharged during the period from September 1950 to May 1951; and EM on occupation duty during the period from February 1951 to July 1951, with the discharges possibly not yet completed. Discharges of NCOs have not been determined, but may have started in the U.S.S.R. in the summer of 1951.

Conscription of Young Classes in the U.S.S.R.

5. Forty-three Soviet documents contained data on the induction of the 1928 through 1931 classes in the U.S.S.R. Another document of January 1951 listed the personnel of a mechanized regiment with regard to classes, and confirmed the analysis of the draft situation.

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1928 Class. From 10 to 20 percent were inducted in February and March 1948; mainly in the fall of 1948 and the spring of 1949; and the rest during the period from October 1949 to January 1950. (Evaluation of 9 documents).

1929 Class. The first contingents were inducted in the spring and fall of 1949, but inductions were carried out mainly during the period from February to April 1950. (Evaluation of 12 documents).

1930 Class. The first contingents were inducted during the period from January to June 1950 but mainly during the period from October to December 1950. (Evaluation of 15 documents).

1931 Class. The first contingents were inducted in the fall of 1950 but mainly in the spring of 1951. The rest will possibly be inducted in the fall of 1951. (Evaluation of 7 documents).

#### Conclusions as to the Present Manpower Status.

6. The Soviet High Command tacitly repealed the decree of 1 October 1941 which lowered the draft age to 17, and, immediately upon the end of the war, resumed inductions in accordance with the Universal Military Service Law of 1939, i.e., in general, the induction of the 19-year-old and the 18-year-old graduates from intermediate schools. Inductions, which were behind schedule during the transition from war strength to peace strength, were on schedule again for the first time in the fall of 1950, when most of the 1930 class was inducted. The prewar practice of annual inductions during the period from 15 September to 15 October was abandoned in favor of inductions of a class in two phases, namely in the fall and spring.
7. The composition of the EM and NCO personnel of the Soviet Army as of August 1951 is believed to have been the following:  
U.S.S.R. EM of the 1928 through 1930 classes and most of the 1931 class; and NCOs of the 1927 through 1929 classes, with the 1927 class possibly being discharged.  
On Occupation Duty. Remaining EM of the 1927 class (the class may be completely discharged), EM of the 1928 through 1930 classes, and first contingents of the 1931 class; and NCOs of the 1927 through 1929 classes.
8. The exchange of soldiers in the Soviet Zone of Germany in June and early July 1951 is believed to have affected EM discharges of the 1927 class and recruits, primarily of the 1931 class.
9. The induction situation since the fall of 1950 can be considered as functioning in accordance with the Universal Military Service Law, whereas discharges have been considerably behind schedule. Even if the discharge of the 1928 class starts in the fall of 1951, it would be behind schedule by six months to one year in regard to length of service, and by 18 months to two years in regard to classes. To compensate for the personnel retained in active service, an estimated 35 to 40 percent of the classes due for induction are at present relegated to the industry and counted to Reserve Category II.
10. The U.S.S.R. is capable of maintaining the present extraordinarily high peace strength of the army, namely about 3,200,000 men, if it continues scheduled inductions and discharges of the 1929 through 1932 classes. Each of these classes averages 1,700,000 to 1,900,000 able-bodied men. However, the number of the physically fit of the subsequent classes continually decreases and reaches a low of 800,000 men by 1962. Consequently, if the U.S.S.R. intends to maintain a peace army as strong as that of today for a protracted period, the term of service will have to be extended.

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There have already been some indications that the two-year term prescribed for Soviet Army enlisted soldiers by the Universal Military Law may have been prolonged for soldiers of special branches, such as the artillery and tank arm. However, there have been no official press releases on an extension of the term of service.

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